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The Honorable

J. Leighton Stuart

American Ambassador

Nanking

NR-0-0-0

Sir:

I have the honor to report on the two day visit of Anna Louise Strong, an American writer, to Dairen, and to make some comments thereon. She was en route from Shanghai to Vladivostok on the Soviet steamer "Ilyich" and spent several days in Dairen on the ship's regular stopover.

Prior to Anna Louise Strong's arrival, an announcement was made in local Soviet and Chinese movie theaters to the effect that a well known American authoress would visit Dairen and make a public appearance. On her arrival, an Intourist car and guide was placed at her disposal and she was afforded the comforts of the Yamato Hotel for the period of her stay. She was permitted to visit factories, schools, and traveled by car to Port Arthur, none of which, up to the present time, has been possible for members of the staff of this Consulate General.

Considerable publicity was given to her visit in the local press. A leading article in the Kwantung Jih Pao on July 23, 1947, entitled "Miss Strong, the Friend of the Chinese People", described an interview with her by a representative of the above mentioned paper. Her biography was given in detail, emphasizing her education and linguistic abilities. It was mentioned that she has written five books on the Soviet Union and three on China, and that she is now engaged in writing a fourth on China; that she has visited China five times; that she saw the great revolution between the Communists and the Kuomintang, and the murder of the revolutionaries which began in Shanghai. The article concluded by quoting Miss Strong as follows: "The people in the liberated areas of China can lead the people of Asia to establish an independent and democratic life".

On Sunday, July 20, Miss Strong spoke before a large meeting of government employees and teachers in the Dairen municipal building. She talked for about one and a half hours. Her theme was the failure of the Kuomintang Party and the great successes of the democratic peoples in the provinces of Shensi, Hopei, Shantung, Honan, and in Harbin.

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She said

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She said, "Chiang Kai-shek made two big mistakes: first in 1926, and the second in the negotiations between the Communists and the Kuomintang last year, when the Kuomintang failed to live up to its promises". She added, "His punishment will come".

She was vehement in her denunciation of American aid to the Nationalists, and talked about the reactionary circle at the head of the United States Government. She said, "The failure of the Chinese reactionaries is also the failure of the United States reactionaries." She also mentioned the strikes in the United States, comparing them to the student revolt in China, and citing them as evidences of democratic strength. Following the speech, she devoted an hour to answering questions. A few, which may be of interest, are enumerated below:

1. What is the difference between the Japanese and the United States imperialists?

   Answer: There is no great difference, only that the American imperialists want to control China with Chiang Kai-shek as the puppet, while the Japanese imperialists attempted to rule over China with the puppet Wang Ching-wei.

2. Is it possible for the United States to take an active part in the Chinese civil war?

   Answer: No, because the democratic forces in the United States will not permit it.

3. Is the United States good or bad?

   Answer: The men in high offices are reactionaries, and therefore are bad.

4. Do you believe there will be a change in the next elections in the United States?

   Answer: It will be very difficult to oust the reactionaries who at present control the government.

On July 22, she spoke before the Sino-Soviet Friendship Society, and her talk was similar in pattern to the above mentioned. As an added point of interest in the speech, she spoke of General Wedemeyer's coming to China in order to help Chinag Kai-shek and his government, which had already proved themselves completely corrupt in the governing of China.

It is difficult to ascertain exactly the impression Anna Louise Strong made on her Chinese listeners. Unfortunately, the sources of the Consulate General are extremely limited because few Chinese dare associate or even talk with members of this staff. A Chinese teacher who heard Miss

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It is difficult to ascertain exactly the impression Anna Louise Strong made on her Chinese listeners. Unfortunately, the sources of the Consulate General are extremely limited because few Chinese dare associate or even talk with members of this staff. A Chinese teacher who heard Miss Strong said, "The teachers were disappointed. They had expected to hear an American liberal, but not necessarily a Communist". Another teacher said, "How can you reconcile the lack of freedom in Dairen with the so-called freedom Miss Strong spoke about in the liberated areas?" The above mentioned sources are, however, believed to be generally favorable to the Central Government of China.

However, it is reliably reported that her talks were greeted with considerable warmth and enthusiasm, which is undoubtedly true, taking into consideration the number of active Communists in the city, and their influence. After all, Anna Louise Strong is an American citizen, and she would carry a good deal of weight with such an audience, most of whom were listening to an American for the first time.

Respectfully yours,

H. Merrell Benninghoff
American Consul General

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